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Appl. No 10/645,485

Reply to Office Action of August 17,2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn) An implement for supporting foodstuff and allowing food preparation operations to be performed thereon, said implement being mountable over a supporting surface defining an adjacent open area and being usable with an open top receptacle, said implement comprising:

a body having a substantially planar working surface, said working surface including a main area and at least one substantially coplanar auxiliary area, said auxiliary area having at least a protruding portion thereof protruding integrally and outwardly from said main area, said auxiliary area having a geometrical configuration distinct from that of said main area so as to facilitate visual identification thereof and visual differentiation thereof from said main area; whereby said main and auxiliary areas are adapted to improve the cognitive ergonomicity of said implement by facilitating the delimitation of distinct coplanar and adjacent working areas for performing corresponding distinct food preparation operations.

2. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said main and auxiliary areas are configured and sized so that said auxiliary area is positionable as a cantilever overlying said open area while said main area rests on said working surface for stably supporting said implement.

3. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said main area has a substantially rectangular

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configuration.

4. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said auxiliary area has a substantially arcuate auxiliary area peripheral edge and said main area defines a substantially rectilinear main area peripheral edge segment positioned adjacent said auxiliary area peripheral edge.

5. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 4 wherein said main area has a substantially rectangular configuration.

6. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said working surface includes a main area and a pair of substantially coplanar auxiliary areas protruding integrally and outwardly therefrom.

7. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 6 wherein each of said auxiliary areas defines a corresponding auxiliary area peripheral edge, both said auxiliary area peripheral edges having a substantially arcuate configuration; whereby said auxiliary area peripheral edges together form generally the outline of the number 3.

8. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 6 wherein said implement has substantially the configuration of a chef hat.

9. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 including a discharge aperture extending through part of said auxiliary area.

10. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 9 wherein said working surface is provided with a drainage groove

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formed thereon for receiving liquids emanating from said working surface, said drainage groove being in fluid communication with said discharge aperture for allowing said liquids to flow from said drainage groove into said drainage aperture.

11. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 9 wherein said discharge aperture has a substantially "D"-shaped configuration.

12. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said auxiliary area defines an auxiliary area peripheral edge and wherein auxiliary area is provided with a discharge aperture extending therethrough; said discharge aperture being located substantially adjacent to said auxiliary area peripheral edge; said auxiliary area defining a graspable segment thereof located between said auxiliary area peripheral edge and said discharge aperture; said graspable segment being configured and sized for allowing grasping thereof by the hand of an intended user.

13. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 wherein said auxiliary area is provided with a discharge aperture extending therethrough; said implement being provided with an adaptor operatively attachable to said discharge aperture.

14. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a open-top container, said open-top container being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereinto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

15. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 14 wherein

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said open top container is provided with an open-top container lid releasably attachable thereto.

16. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 15 wherein said open-top container defines a container peripheral edge substantially coplanar with said working surface when said open-top container is operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

17. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 14 wherein said working surface is provided with a drainage groove formed thereon for receiving liquids, said drainage groove being in fluid communication with said discharge aperture, said open-top container allowing said liquid to flow thereinto from said drainage groove when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

18. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 including at least two open-top containers of different volumes, each of said open-top container being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereinto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

19. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a strainer, said strainer being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereinto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

20. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a grater, said grater being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped

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thereunto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

21. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a measuring component, said measuring component including at least two measuring recesses of different volumes formed thereinto, said measuring component being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped into said at least two measuring recesses from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

22. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a funnel, said funnel being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereinto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

23. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a chute, said chute being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereinto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

24. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a weighting component, said weighting component being configured and sized so as to allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereunto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

25. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor includes a covering component, said covering component being configured and sized so as to cover said discharge aperture and allow said foodstuff to be scraped

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thereunto from said working surface when operatively coupled to said discharge aperture.

27. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 13 wherein said adaptor is provided with an adaptor releasable attachment means for releasably attaching said adaptor to said working surface so that said adaptor extends at least partially into said discharge aperture.

28. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 27 wherein said adaptor releasable attachment means allows an upper surface of said adaptor to be substantially coplanar with said working surface when said adaptor is releasably attached to said working surface.

29. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 28 wherein said adaptor includes a peripheral hooking protrusion extending therefrom; said discharge aperture defining a discharge aperture peripheral edge, said discharge aperture peripheral edge including a peripheral attachment recess formed therein for substantially complementarily receiving said hooking protrusion and supporting the latter.

30. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 27 comprising both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface; said discharge aperture extending between said first and second working surfaces; said releasable attachment means allowing said adaptor to be releasably attached to said implement so as to be usable with either one of said first or second working surfaces.

31. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 30 wherein said adaptor includes a peripheral hooking protrusion extending therefrom; said discharge aperture defining a

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discharge aperture peripheral edge, said discharge aperture including a first and a second peripheral attachment recess formed respectively in said first and second working surfaces for substantially matingly receiving said hooking protrusion and supporting the latter.

32. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 31 wherein said hooking protrusion has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross sectional configuration and said first and second attachment recesses are each substantially complementarily shaped relative to said hooking protrusion, said first and second attachment recesses being substantially symmetrically disposed relative to each other.

33. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 31 wherein said hooking protrusion has a substantially triangular-shaped cross sectional configuration and said first and second attachment recesses are each substantially complementarily shaped relative to said hooking protrusion, said first and second attachment recesses being substantially symmetrically disposed relative to each other.

34. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 31 wherein said hooking protrusion has a substantially sector-shaped cross sectional configuration and said first and second attachment recesses are each substantially complementarily shaped relative to said hooking protrusion, said first and second attachment recesses being substantially symmetrically disposed relative to each other.

35. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 further comprising a spacing means for maintaining said body in a spaced relationship relative to said supporting surface when said implement is resting on said supporting surface.

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36. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 further comprising a tilting means for tilting at least part of said working surface relative to said supporting surface when said implement is resting on said supporting surface.

37. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 comprising both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface, said adaptor further comprising a spacing means for maintaining said body in a spaced relationship relative to said supporting surface when said implement is resting on said supporting surface with said first or second working surfaces selectively facing upwardly away from said supporting surface.

38. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 comprising both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface, said adaptor further comprising a tilting means for tilting at least part of said working surface relative to said supporting surface when said implement is resting on said supporting surface with said first or second working surfaces selectively facing upwardly away from said supporting surface.

39. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 1 further comprising at least one foot extending substantially outwardly from said body for supporting said implement on said supporting surface.

40. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 39 wherein said at least one foot is releasably attached to said body.

41. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 40 wherein said at least one foot includes a foot attachment segment

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and a foot abutment segment, said body including a foot attachment aperture formed therein, said foot attachment segment being substantially fittingly insertable into said foot attachment aperture.

42. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 40 wherein said body defines a body peripheral edge and a body thickness, said at least one foot having a substantially "C"-shaped cross-sectional configuration defining an abutment segment and an attachment segment maintained in a spaced apart and parallel relationship relative to each other by a substantially perpendicular spacing segment, said body peripheral edge being substantially fittingly insertable between said abutment and attachment segments.

43. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 42 wherein said attachment segment is longitudinally angled relative to said abutment segment so as to allow for said body to be angled relative to said supporting surface.

44. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 42 wherein said attachment segment is transversally angled relative to said abutment segment so as to allow for said body to be angled relative to said supporting surface.

45. (withdrawn) An implement as recited in claim 40 wherein said at least one foot includes a foot strip having an abutment component extending substantially upwardly therefrom adjacent longitudinal ends thereof, said foot strip being positionable between said supporting surface and said body with said abutment components positioned outwardly and substantially adjacent relative to the peripheral edge of said body.

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46. (currently amended) An implement for supporting foodstuff and allowing food preparation operations to be performed thereon, said implement being mountable over a supporting surface, said implement comprising:
a body having a substantially planar working surface, said working surface including a main area and at least one auxiliary area, said main and auxiliary areas being substantially coplanar and extending continuously from each other, said main and auxiliary areas respectively defining a main area peripheral edge and an auxiliary area peripheral edge; said main and auxiliary area peripheral edges having distinct geometrical configurations for facilitating the visual identification and recognition thereof; said main and auxiliary areas extending from each other along a shared edge portion of said main and auxiliary areas peripheral edges; said working surface area being substantially planar substantially adjacent and across said shared edge portion; whereby said main and auxiliary areas are adapted to be used for distinct food preparation operations and said continuous relationship between said main and auxiliary areas and said substantially planar configuration of said working surface substantially adjacent and across said shared edge portion ~~allows~~ facilitate scraping said foodstuff between said main and auxiliary areas.

47. (original) An implement as recited in claim 46 wherein at least part of said auxiliary area forms a protruding portion protruding outwardly from an adjacent portion of said main area peripheral edge.

48. (original) An implement as recited in claim 47 wherein said main area and said protruding portion are configured and sized so that said implement is stably supported when said main area is rested on said supporting surface with

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said protruding portion extending away from said supporting surface; whereby said protruding portion is stably positionable over an open area.

49. (previously presented) An implement as recited in claim 47 wherein said protruding portion includes a discharge aperture extending therethrough; whereby said foodstuff may fall through said discharge aperture when said foodstuff is scraped into said discharge aperture.

50. (original) An implement as recited in claim 46 wherein said main area peripheral edge includes at least one substantially rectilinear edge segment and wherein said auxiliary area peripheral edge includes an arcuate edge segment.

51. (original) An implement as recited in claim 50 wherein said main area has a substantially rectangular configuration and wherein said auxiliary area has a substantially truncated disc-shaped configuration.

52. (original) An implement as recited in claim 51 wherein said main area peripheral edge includes a substantially rectilinear end edge and a pair of opposed and substantially rectilinear lateral edges extending substantially perpendicularly from said end edge; said auxiliary area peripheral edge including an arc segment, said arc segment intercepting one of said lateral edges.

53. (original) An implement as recited in claim 46 wherein said working surface is provided with a discharge aperture extending therethrough, said discharge aperture being configured, sized and positioned to allow said foodstuff to be scraped therein from said working surface.

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54. (original) An implement as recited in claim 53 wherein said discharge aperture extends through said auxiliary area.

55. (original) An implement as recited in claim 54 wherein said discharge aperture is positioned substantially adjacent to said auxiliary area peripheral edge.

56. (previously presented) An implement as recited in claim 55 wherein said auxiliary area peripheral edge includes an auxiliary area arcuate edge segment; said discharge aperture defining a discharge aperture peripheral edge, said discharge aperture peripheral edge including a substantially arcuate aperture arced edge segment, said aperture arced edge segment being substantially in register with said auxiliary area arcuate edge segment so as to define a substantially arcuate rim therebetween; said rim being configured and sized to be usable as a handle.

57. (original) An implement as recited in claim 56 wherein said discharge aperture has a substantially "D"-shaped configuration.

58. (Currently amended) An implement as recited in claim 46 further comprising at least one foot extending substantially outwardly from said body for supporting said implement on said supporting surface, said at least one foot being releasably attachable to said body. ~~An implement as recited in claim 46 wherein at least part of said auxiliary area forms a protruding portion protruding outwardly from an adjacent portion of said main area peripheral edge.~~

59. (Currently amended) An implement as recited in claim 46, wherein said auxiliary area is provided with a discharge

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aperture extending therethrough, said implement further comprising a covering component operatively attachable to said discharge aperture, said covering component being configured and sized so as to cover said discharge aperture and allow said foodstuff to be scraped thereunto from said working surface when operatively attached to said discharge aperture. ~~An implement as recited in claim 58 wherein said main area and said protruding portion are configured and sized so that said implement is stably supported when said main area is rested on said supporting surface with said protruding portion extending away from said supporting surface; whereby said protruding portion is stably positionable over an open area.~~

60. (Currently amended) An implement as recited in claim 46, wherein said auxiliary area is provided with a discharge aperture extending therethrough, said implement being provided with an adaptor operatively attachable to said discharge aperture, said adaptor being provided with an adaptor releasable attachment means for releasably attaching said adaptor to said working surface so that said adaptor extends at least partially into said discharge aperture, said adaptor releasable attachment means allowing an upper surface of said adaptor to be substantially coplanar with said working surface when said adaptor is releasably attached to said working surface. ~~An implement as recited in claim 59 wherein said protruding portion includes a discharge aperture extending therethrough; whereby said foodstuff may fall into said open area through said discharge aperture when said protruding portion is positioned in an overlying relationship with said open area and said foodstuff is scrapped into said discharge aperture.~~

61. (New) An implement as recited in claim 59 comprising

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both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface; said discharge aperture extending between said first and second working surfaces; said covering component being operatively attachable to said implement so as to be usable with either one of said first or second working surfaces.

62. (New) An implement as recited in claim 60 comprising both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface; said discharge aperture extending between said first and second working surfaces; said adaptor releasable attachment means allowing said adaptor to be releasably attached to said implement so as to be usable with either one of said first or second working surfaces.

63. (New) An implement as recited in claim 58 comprising both a first working surface and an opposed second working surface; said at least one tool being releasably attachable to said body so as to alternatively extend from both said first and second working surfaces.

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